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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7506**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1567

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 11, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Anti-bullying.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Porter

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Guidelines:* This bill modifies the definition of bullying. It requires the Department of Education to develop guidelines to assist school corporations and safe school committees in establishing bullying prevention programs and investigation and reporting procedures.

*Reporting:* The bill requires each school corporation to include the number and nature of bullying incidents that occurred within the school corporation on the school corporation's annual performance report. It sets out a bullying reporting requirement for each school corporation.

*Discipline Rules:* The bill requires each school corporation to include detailed procedures for investigations and reporting of bullying behaviors in the school corporation's discipline rules.

*State Educational Institution:* The bill requires that if a board of trustees of a state educational institution elects to govern by regulation or another means, the conduct of students, faculty, employees, and others while upon the property owned, used, or occupied by the state educational institution, the regulation must include a policy prohibiting bullying.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Guidelines:* This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to collaborate with the school safety specialist of each school corporation to prepare guidelines on educational materials on bullying to be used in grades 1 to 12. The DOE and school corporations would also have to prepare guidelines on how to investigate and report bullying incidents.

*State Educational Institution:* Under the bill, any regulation on personal conduct promulgated by the board

of trustees of a state educational institution must include a policy prohibiting bullying. The bill's requirements should be able to be implemented within existing resources.

*Background:* DOE has a fairly extensive array of resources on bullying available on its website. Included are links to other government and non government organizations that focus on bullying.

### **Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary: Guidelines:* School corporations would incur the cost of compiling training materials for staff and students. The total cost is indeterminable at this time.

*Guidelines:* School corporations, through their school safety specialists, would collaborate with the DOE to prepare educational materials on bullying, and procedures for reporting incidents of bullying. Schools would be responsible for educating students in grades 1 through 12 about bullying.

*Reporting:* School corporations must include the number and nature of bullying incidents in their annual report. In a more detailed report to DOE on student safety, corporations must include a section on the number and nature of bullying incidents, when and where they occurred and if school property or equipment was used. The fiscal impact is expected to be negligible.

*Discipline Rules:* Under current law, the discipline rules adopted by school corporations must include provisions for reporting and investigating incidents of bullying, informing parents of incidents, and educating students. This bill specifies in more detail what those provisions entail. For example, it allows for the anonymous reporting of incidents, directs that timetables be established for reporting the incident to parents, school administrators, the school superintendent and law enforcement, and establishes disciplinary sanctions for staff members who fail to initiate or conduct an investigation into a bullying incident.

The cost of implementing this provision is expected to be negligible.

### **Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, State Educational Institutions of Higher Learning.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School Corporations; Safe School Committees; School Safety Specialists.

**Information Sources:** Dept of Education website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/bullying/index.html>

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